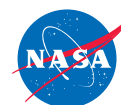




Site for On-line Learning and Resources

NASA e-Learning Newsletter



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A Message from Joe McElwee

Special points of interest:

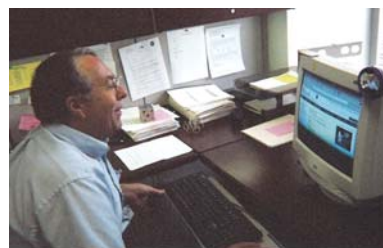
- *During FY02, over 45,000 learners completed training on SOLAR*
- *Software and hardware upgrades have resulted in a robust architecture*
- *SOLAR is still a work in progress*
- *Long-range vision for a personalized learning environment*

Most people are familiar with SOLAR because of annual mandatory training requirements which can be satisfied via SOLAR.

During FY02, in fact, over 45,000 learners have completed such training on SOLAR. Although the system was not originally conceived, designed, nor scaled for this level of use, recent investments in hardware and software upgrades have resulted in a robust architecture that can easily accommodate more than twice this usage.

The SOLAR of today is a significant agency resource, which can serve up a host of web-based learning content and resources.

But, it is still a work in progress, and only an interim step toward a long-range vision of offering our workforce a personalized learning environment supporting individual career development needs, roles, and interests.



JOE MCELWEE
SOLAR Functional Manager

New Courses on SOLAR

Inside this issue:

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The following two new courses are available right NOW! Go check them out:

[Accessibility Awareness](#)

This excellent and informative course is designed to provide NASA employees with an overview of three Sections of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

[Travel Manager](#)

The Travel Manager Course covers Gelco Travel Manager Web Version 8.0. Procedures for logging into the system, menu locations, link identification, common buttons/areas are just some of the sections covered.

Available SOON!!

[Windows 2000 Security](#). This training course was developed by the NASA Expert Center for Information Technology Security Awareness

and Training in collaboration with the NASA Windows Working Group and NASA IT Security Managers. The course will educate the student in the security fundamentals considered essential for anyone using or responsible for maintaining a Windows 2000-based workstation or server. This training course has been designed to meet the operating system security training requirement of all users, including Users with Administrative Privileges and System Administrators. It will be of benefit to anyone who has Windows 2000 installed on their desktop. In addition, this course will show you how to access and use Windows 2000 security features to more effectively maintain the security of your system.

The following courses are planned for release in September:

[Basic IT Security for 2003](#)

[IT Security for Managers 2003](#)

SOLAR 1.5 Release due September 30

The release of SOLAR version 1.5 is eagerly anticipated in the month of September. According to the development team, the 1.5 release will implement multiple user related improvements to the functional portions of SOLAR as they relate to the database, usability, and user-friendliness.

This will be primarily accomplished through database redesign activities as well as a redesign of several SOLAR web pages. The largest portion of this release will focus on the SOLAR database. As it exists in its current state, the SOLAR password, survey, testing and navigation activities are unstable. Changes to the database table struc-

tures and content, as well as to source code and it's method of access, will be modified to make these areas more stable, according to the team.

The SOLAR team welcomes comments and suggestions as this is your SOLAR.

For comments, please contact them at solar.support@msfc.nasa.gov.

For formal change requests, please use the Change Control Request form which is accessible from the SOLAR site under the Resource Links menu.

Keep up the great work team!!



SOLAR Development Team

Front Row (left to right): Robert Kennel (developer), Ellen Bell (developer), Mark Clark (developer), Bernadette Garrett-McCants (DBA); Middle: William Rydbom (developer), June Wilson (developer/content), Chad Hill (developer/graphics); Back Row: Louise Setzer (help desk), Colleen Davis (help desk), Phil Moore (test), Greg Bugg (CM/architecture). Not Pictured: Carolyn Jones (developer), Suzanne Miller (design/graphics).

November SOLAR Workshop

DATE:
NOVEMBER 6, 7

PLACE:
MSFC

The SOLAR Manager's Training Workshop has been scheduled for November 6 and 7 at MSFC in Huntsville, Alabama. The purpose of this workshop is to

provide training and a forum for managers and administrators to discuss the use of SOLAR and its effectiveness as a tool for conducting training. Agency Training Officers,

Training Administrators, Subject Matter Experts, Module Managers, and members of the SOLAR Configuration Management Board will be attending the workshop.

During last year's workshop, attendees participated in several discussions including: lessons learned from using SOLAR, metrics, SOLAR-the next generation, end-user input, new e-learning tools and technologies, and module development process.

The feedback resulted in many exciting changes to SOLAR this year. Enhancement and improvement of its capabilities, new interface, additional courses, are just a few of the changes that make SOLAR today an excellent training tool. As SOLAR continues to improve and evolve, participation in the workshop becomes more crucial.

Please mark your calendars for November 6 and 7. Additional information will be forthcoming.

E-Learning experts agree....

Celebrating Complexity: Understanding the Culture of e-Learning by Piers Lea, e-learningmag.com, July 18, 2002.

Five main success factors are necessary for an e-learning strategy to succeed—content, capability, cost, clients, and, most importantly, culture... Culture is starting to become a more complicated topic

to tackle, but addressing the basic issues that will make e-learning more effective isn't.

Consider some basic questions: What is the culture of learning? What is the age of the target audience? How much time do people have? What tone of voice does the company use?...

Corporations need to wake up

and understand that the power of e-learning will only be realized when it is seen within an overall vision of learning that fits the company culture. This will require designing a well thought through blend—using the ideal tool, at the best time, for a relevant subject, to the right person.¹

¹Condensed from cited article

Guidelines for developing a SOLAR training course

The following general development guidelines have been designed to ensure the smooth integration of your training course with the SOLAR training system. When creating and submitting a course, please remember the following guidelines:

1. Ensure the course is 508/SCORM compliant.
2. Confirm a Subject Matter Expert (SME) to serve as curator of the module once it is posted on

SOLAR. In agreeing to perform this role, the SME will receive, and will be responsible for, responding to user feedback and questions concerning the module, as well as identifying when changes to the module are needed or desired.

3. Design all presentation screens for a maximum screen size of 770 pixels wide by 350 pixels high in order to limit user scrolling.
4. Obtain a unique module ID for the course you are preparing.

For a copy of the course development guidelines info sheet, please contact Mercedes Sironi at msironi@htshq.com.



SOLAR considers adoption of SCORM standards

In March 2002 SOLAR's Configuration Management Board (CMB) recommended that steps be taken to initiate the process of having NASA officially adopt two emerging e-learning standards: the Shareable Content Object Reference Model Standards (SCORM) and the Aviation Industry CBT Committee (AICC) standards. According to the CMB, adoption of these standards will help ensure the long-term success of SOLAR and assist the Agency in providing

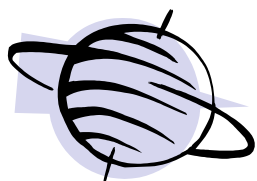
employees and contractors the most efficient and cost effective training possible. The standards will guide the development of a common technical framework for computer and net-based learning that will foster the creation of reusable learning content as "instructional objects." SCORM "compliant" learning platforms will be able to recycle objects into new courses and allow for automated design and construction of learning paths based on experience

and individual development needs. Furthermore, data such as test scores, certifications, and other training metrics will easily pass between learning management, proprietary, and enterprise systems.¹

**"THE STANDARDS
WILL GUIDE THE
DEVELOPMENT OF
A COMMON
TECHNICAL
FRAMEWORK FOR
COMPUTER AND
NET-BASED
LEARNING..."**

¹ www.adlnet.org

NASA e-Learning Pilot Portal



Phase I of the NASA e-Learning Portal project will open as a pilot for a limited number of users the week of September 5. The portal, which will be developed over the

next 12-24 months into an agency wide one-stop training resource site for NASA employees and contractors, is an electronic gateway that offers end-users a personalized home page that delivers links, headlines, and access to other relevant NASA training resources and opportunities.

Initially, the project will utilize the Sun portal product (Sun ONE)

and allow users single sign on access to the NASA SOLAR training platform, as well as some limited personalization features, and will function with Macintosh, personal computers, and both the Internet Explorer and Netscape browsers.

In March 2003, Phase II will

(cont'd on page 4)



Customer Service

Need help using the system to access or complete courses?

Contact the Help Desk at:

Help Desk (256) 544-7600

Toll Free (866) 419-6297

Email: solar.support@msfc.nasa.gov

Interested in using SOLAR for your training needs?
Please contact:

Dr. Tony Lopez (858) 495-0508

For technical development questions, please contact:

Sheila Fogle (256) 544-5638

Hector Garcia (256) 544-8301



<https://solar.msfc.nasa.gov>

Newsletter Publication:

Mercedes Sironi

NASA e-Learning Administrator

Te: (858) 495-0508

NASA e-Learning Pilot Portal-*cont'd*

Letter from the Editor

Cont'd from page 3

begin with a review to document lessons learned from Phase I and will evaluate other portal products including the SAP product--MySAP.

Additional Phase II features may include seamless entry into the Federal Learning site (www.golearn.gov) and other NASA content vendors, as well as access to a comprehensive searchable training catalog of NASA web based, CBT, and satellite courses.

For additional information, you may contact Dan Costello at dcostello@htshq.com or by telephone at 703.519.7405.

We hope you enjoy reading the first issue of the NASA SOLAR e-Learning Newsletter. This bi-monthly newsletter is designed as an information and communication vehicle for the NASA training community. You will find articles of interest about e-learning, upcoming events, SOLAR updates, and other NASA training activities.

We welcome your comments and solicit your newsworthy contributions to make this a truly effective, agency-wide communication tool.



Please send your comments or articles to:

Mercedes Sironi

E-mail: msironi@htshq.com